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NSC BRIEFING

28 October 1959

BACKGROUND

MOROCCO

- I. Ibrahim Government has taken firm measures to control potential disorders, although friction remains between King's authoritarian-minded entourage and left-wing majority within government.
- A. Crown Prince Moulay Hassan undoubtedly is still counseling use of army to suppress leftists.
- II. Prolonged financial crisis should be eased by recent franc devaluation (from 420 to 506 to the dollar--French franc is 493 to dollar) and by IMF grant of \$25,000,000 standby credit.
- A. Financial talks with France about to begin.
- III. Within past six weeks, Morocco has agreed to exchange diplomatic representatives with Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary.
- A. Soviet Embassy opened in 1958; Chicom Embassy in April.
- B. But government is proceeding with legal action against local Communist party (already illegal but had been tolerated).
- IV. Although Ibrahim while in Washington intimated his government would agree to no more than two-year phase-out of American bases, King would approve calendar of evacuation from two to five years, depending on ability of Moroccan armed forces to assume maintenance and control of bases.
- A. King may envisage US aid in training military forces.
- V. Token US arms shipment scheduled to arrive in time for Moroccan national holiday parade next month.
- A. Crown Prince has indicated displeasure at size of shipment; may reject materiel.

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DATE 12-11-79 REVIEWER:

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